

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A perpendicular magnetic recording head, comprising: according to claim 2, wherein the write shield has such a thickness that is thicker in each of edge portions than in a central portion

a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction;

an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a leading side to the main pole; and

a write shield arranged apart from the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole and having a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers, the write shield having such a shape that has a thickness that is larger in each of edge portions than in a central portion along a track width direction.

4. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 3, wherein the write shield has ~~such a~~ shape such that a number of stacks of the magnetic layer and the nonmagnetic layer ~~that is~~ are larger in each of the edge portions than those in a central portion along the track width direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 3, wherein the auxiliary pole ~~has~~ comprises a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers.

6.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A magnetic disc apparatus, comprising:
~~according to claim 7, wherein the write shield has such a thickness that is thicker in each of edge portions than in a central portion~~

